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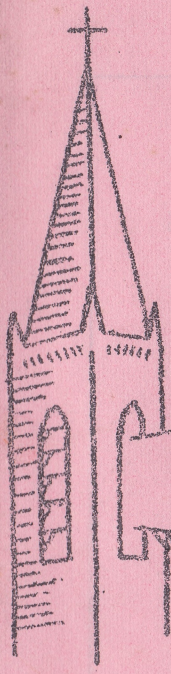

The MESSENGER

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

St. Stephen's, Milnrow & Littleborough

A

MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND

A

HAPPY NEW YEAR

TO

ALL

OUR

READERS

From the Manse.

December 1974

My dear friends,

Now that the first days of December are upon us our thoughts are directed inevitably towards the Christmas Season.

For most people the mention of Christmas releases a hundred memories. Some think of years gone by - of family gatherings, of Christmas puddings boiling in coppers and of friendly faces seated around the Christmas table. For some these memories are tinged with sadness that such occasions can be no more.

Christmas means the fun of looking round brilliantly lit shops, the choosing of presents. It is a time for festivity and happiness and fun. Laughter, warmth and friendship are all part of the occasion and when it is all over we miss it tremendously.

At the first Christmas Heaven broke into our human situation, and the sky was filled with the voices of the messengers of God bringing words of goodwill, and in a stable Christ was born. This is the event from which all our Christmas happiness stems and this is why we should rejoice.

When the days of Christmas celebration have gone their way and the life of the world around settles back to normal, Christmas is forgotton and folk look forward to the next event.

For the Christian, however, Christmas can never be forgotton just like that. Heaven keeps on breaking into life for them, the angels of God always bring messages of goodwill; and even sad memories are touched with happiness, for they know that Christ has all things in His care.

For the Christian, Christmas does not pass away, for the heart of Christmas remains always. It is "God with us" in the person of Christ.

May all happiness come to you and yours this Christmastide.

Your sincere friend,

ALFRED NASH.

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Thought for the month

"Do not be afraid! Listen, I bring you glorious news of great joy which is for all the people. This very day, in David's town, a Saviour has been born for you. He is Christ, the Lord"

(J.B. Phillips trans.) Luke 2: 11-12.

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love divine,
Love was born at Christmas
Star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,
Love incarnate Love divine,
Worship we our Jesus;
But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,
Love be yours, and love be mine,
Love to God and all men,
Love for plea and gift and sign.

OBITUARY

Mr, ERIC OSWALD, aged 44 years,
of 26, Bentgate Street, Newhey.

Mrs. Annie Taylor, aged 81 years,
of 64, Newhey Road, Milnrow.

Both Services conducted at Rochdale Crematorium by Rev. A. Nash.

We extend our deepest sympathy to both of these bereaved families.

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HOLY BAPTISM

On Sunday 3rd November at St. Stephen's:

DANIEL ROBERT
son of Mr. & Mrs. B. Earnshaw.

On Sunday, 17th November at St. Stephen's:

FRANK JAMES
son of Mr. & Mrs. F. Smith.

- - - May God bless these little ones - - -

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GUEST SERVICE

Our thanks to all who contributed in any way to make our Guest Service on November 17th such a success. It was indeed good to be able to recapture some of the high-lights we have enjoyed since last January on Sunday evenings.

And now, on DECEMBER 22nd at 6.0 p.m., we have a happy Christmas Fesivity Evening to which we invite you all. Items will include special carols - a Christmas Play - and the Envoys. Book the date - it's a MUST - 6 pm. on December 22nd.

LADIES GUILD

Our Meeting held on November 5th was indeed a pleasant one.

Highlights of the evening included a re-cap of items first given at the Evening Service on October 27th; we thought again about the need for forgiveness for ourselves and the need to forgive others; of the wonderful blessings received each and every day; and the sure knowledge of Another walking with us each day showing us how faithful our God is.

A most interesting talk was given to us by Mrs. Gillon abour her job at the 'vets', and not the least were we intrigued with the X-ray plates.

We now look forward to our next meeting on December 3rd, which will be our Christmas Party.

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YOUNG MUMS

Dec. 4th: Opened by Mrs. C. Hey.
Cake Decorating - Mrs. P. Royle

11th: Opened by Mrs. A. Baines
Making Christmas Decorations

18th: A service by candle-light in the Church, followed by a Party.

We shall then close until Wednesday, January 8th

SAVING FATHER'S BACON

One morning when it looked as if Daddy was going to miss his train, the family dashed round madly laying out his clothes, assembling his briefcase, helping all they could. Billy, aged two, wanted to do his bit, but kept getting in the way. Finally he discovered the one remaining job- and promptly sat down and devoured Daddy's breakfast.

C H R I S T M A S C A L E N D A R

(for St. Stephen's)

Dec. 1: SUNDAY — 11.00 am. TOY SERVICE
Toys received by
Mr. & Mrs. H. Whitehead.

7: SATURDAY — 7.00- 11.00 pm.
FAMILY CHURCH DANCE
Dancing to 'Bill Duncan Trio'
Admission: Adults 30p
Children 20p
(Including Refreshments)

18: WEDNESDAY — 7.00 pm. CAROL SINGING
ROUND THE DISTRICT.
If you enjoy singing we invite you to come along and join us. The more voices the better!

22: SUNDAY — 6.00 pm.
CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL SERVICE
Items will include:
Special Christmas Music
Envoys' Orchestra
Christmas Play

24: TUESDAY — 11.30 pm.
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
Don't forget your candle!

25: WEDNESDAY — 11.00 am.
CHRISTMAS MORNING SERVICE

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ATTENTION ALL READERS

We regret that due to the enormous increase in the cost of paper and other duplicating materials we have no alternative but to increase the price of the Messenger to 4p per copy from January 1975.

The reason we have been able to hold the price at 2p for so long is the fact that our supply of paper lasted 2 years. The cost of our last delivery is now actually more than double the price we last paid.

We hope you continue to subscribe to the "Messenger" and would welcome new regular readers. If you would like a copy delivered to you each month, please contact Mrs. D. Emmott who will make arrangements with the distributor in your area.

We would remind new readers that there are 11 editions (June/July combined) and if you could pay your distributor 44p for the year when you receive your January copy, it would save the monthly collection of money.

Please remember that it is your Magazine, and any item you wish to contribute will be most welcome; whether news or some story you may wish to share. These and other items of news from secretaries of organisations and committees should be in the hands of the editor by approx. 15th- 20th of each month.

PIP PIP!

The house magazine of a large London wine merchant is called "GRAPE EXPECTATIONS"

WHEN TIRED

I am tired, Lord,
too tired to think,
too tired to pray,
too tired to do anything.
Too tired,
drained of resources,
'labouring at the oars against a head wind,'
pressed down by a force as strong as the sea.
Lord of all power and might
'your way was through the sea,
your path through the great waters',
calm my soul,
take control,
Lord of all power and might

(Rex Chapman)

QUOTABLE QUOTES

Being put on a pedestal has disadvantages which you're apt to discover the first time you fail to watch your step.

There's a difference between opinion and conviction. My opinion is something that is true for me personally; my conviction is something that is true for everybody - in my opinion.

You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late.

Economics is extremely useful as a form of employment for ecenomists.

.....(From Readers Digest)

Littleborough Ladies Guild

A happy time was had by all on November 12th when we enjoyed amongst other things, a talk by our President and a Birthday Supper provided by those ladies celebrating their birthday in October, November and December.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were read by our secretary and arrangements made for the Christmas Party to be held on Tuesday, December 17th, which will commence at 7.0 pm.

THE OXEN

(Thomas Hardy)

Christmas Eve, and twelve of the clock,
"Now they are all on their knees,"
An elder said, as we sat in a flock
By the embers in hearthside ease.

We pictured the meek, mild creatures where
They dwelt in their strawy pen,
Nor did it occur to one of us there
To doubt they were kneeling then.

So fair a fancy few would weave
In these years! Yet I feel,
If someone said on Christmas Eve,
"Come, see the oxen kneel

In the lonely barton by yonder coomb
Our childhood used to know."
I should go with him in the gloom,
Hoping it might be so.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT LITTLEBOROUGH

Sunday, 22nd December at 10.30 am.

A CAROL SERVICE

Items by the choir.

Do come - bring your friends - stay to fellowship time in the hall after the service - Enjoy a 'cuppa' and fellowship!

Don't forget! -22nd December at 10.30 am.

* * *

CHRISTMAS MORNING is always a grand time to sing praises to God - this year will you come to do just that -

10 am. on Christmas Morning -

Bring a candle with you and make our Church look real Christmassy!

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RECEPTION OF MISSIONARY BOXES

Missionary Boxes will be received at the Morning Service on 15th December.

Many thanks to all who contribute towards Missionary Work in this way.

Should you wish to have a box in which you could place perhaps a weekly sum of money, please see Mrs. Leach.

WHO NEEDS CIVILISATION?

In deploring the state of the world, perhaps we expect too much of the human race too soon. One dark days, it is worth remembering that the word 'civilization' itself was coined by a Frenchman only 200 years ago.

CHURCH DUTIES - MILNROW

FAMILY CHURCH DOOR STEWARDS

Dec. 1st	Mr. D. Fursey	Mrs. J. Duffy
8th	Mr. J. Harrison	Counc. I. Royle
15th	Mr. J. Collins	Mrs. A. Collins
22nd	Mrs. P. Royle	Mrs. F. Rae
25th		
29th	Mr. G. Buckley	Mr. A. Rae
Jan. 5th	Mr. H. Mellor	Mrs. F. Butterworth

ELDERS ROTA EVENING DOOR STEWARDS	DUTY ELDER	ORGANIST/ PIANIST
1st Mr. J. Wild	Mr. A.Roberts	Mr. D. Logan
8th Mr. B. Clough	Mr. J.Emmott	Mrs.E.Starkie
15th Mrs. N.Settle	Mr. B.Clough	Mrs. C. Hey
22nd Mr. K. Hey Miss M.Wood	Mr. R.Gillon	Mr. A. Clegg
25th - (am)	Mr. A.Roberts	Mr. D. Lynch
29th Mrs. M.Howarth	Mr. K. Hey	Mr. J. Emmott
Jan 5th Mr. J. Wild	Mrs.E.Gillon	Mr. D. Logan

COMMUNION ROTA

Dec. 1st	Mr. J. Emmott	Miss M. Wood
Jan. 5th	Mr. A. Roberts	Mrs. M. Howarth

FAMILY CHURCH COFFEE ROTA

Dec. 1st	Mrs. C. Hey	Mrs. M. Mellor
8th	Mrs. J. Munday	Mrs. M. Ogden
15th	Mrs. J. Cudworth	Mrs. N. Settle
22nd	Mrs. E. Busill	Miss I. Tither
29th	Miss M. Wood	Miss A. Clegg
Jan. 5th	Mrs. J. Duffy	Mrs. F. Butterworth

Persons unable to take their appointments as listed are expected to find a suitable substitute.

OFFERTORIES

	Cash am.	Cash pm.	Envelopes	Total
October	£28.78	£7.64	£69.26	£105.68

CHURCH DUTIES -- LITTLEBOROUGH

DOOR STEWARDS

Dec. 1st	Mr. E. Holt	Mr. F. Beattie
8th	Mr. H.N. Hill	Mrs. E. Crossley
15th	Mr. F. Ingham	Mr. J. Hill
22nd	Mr. J. Nairn	Mr. J. Holt
29th	Mrs. Stott	Mr. E. Holt
Jan. 5th	Mr. F. Beattie	Mr. H.N. Hill

ELDERS COMMUNION ROTA

Dec. 8th	Carol Service 6.0 pm. Communion)	Mr. F. Simpson Mr. J. Nairn
22nd	Family Communion) 10.30 am.)	Mr. F. Beattie Mr. J. Lord

COFFEE ROTA

Dec. 1st	J. Law	J. Allison
8th	D. Mallinson	J. Hobbs
15th	S. Moss	L. Butterworth
22nd	A. Merrick	L. Kelsall
29th	A. Wall	B. Leach
Jan. 5th	K. Hill	W. Spinks

ORGANIST/PIANIST

	am.	pm.
Dec. 1st	Mrs. M. Hill	
8th	Miss L. Merrick	Mrs.M. Hill
15th	Mrs. Cockcroft	
22nd	Mr. A. Clegg	
25th	Mrs. M. Hill (Christmas Day)	
29th	Miss L. Merrick	

Persons unable to take their appointments as listed are expected to find a suitable substitute.

FAMILY CHURCH READINGS

Dec. 1st	M. Law	Psalm 146
8th	H. Vincent	Isaiah 40: 3-5; 9-11.
15th	K. Hill	Isaiah 60: 19-22
22nd	P. Lightfoot	Luke 2: 1-20
29th	M.G. Hill	1 John 1: 1-7
Jan, 5th	M. Grindrod	

MILNROW DIARY

December

Sun.	1st	11.00 am.	Rev.A. Nash -TOY SERVICE
		6.00 pm.	Service of Word & Sacrament
Mon.	2nd	5.45 pm.	Pre-Pilots } Each Monday
		6.30 pm.	Pilots } as
		8.00 pm.	Young Peoples Fellowship } announced
Tues.	3rd	7.30 pm.	Women's Guild Christmas Party
Wed.	4th	2.00 pm.	Young Mums Group - (and each Wednesday as announced)
Sat.	7th	7.00 pm.	Family Church Dance
Sun.	8th	11.00 pm.	Mrs. E. Riley
		6.00 pm.	Mr. J. Collinge
Wed.	11th	7.30 pm.	Elders Meeting
Sun.	15th	11.00 am.	Rev. A. Nash
		6.00 pm.	"
Wed.	18th	7.00 pm.	Carols around the District
Sun.	22nd	11.00 am.	Mrs. M. Jeffrey
		6.00 pm.	Carols & Nativity Play
Tues.	24th	11.30 pm.	Christmas Eve Service
Wed.	25th	11.00 am.	Christmas Morning Service
Sun.	29th	11.00 am.	Rev. A. Nash
		6.00 pm.	"

January

Thurs.	2nd	1.30 pm.	Junior Church visit to Pantomime.
Sun.	5th	11.00 am.	Rev. A. Nash
		6.00 pm.	" (Service of Word & Sacrament)

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FLOWERS FOR COMMUNION TABLE

Dec. 1st	Mrs. J. Calow	Mrs. Clowes
8th	Mrs. D. Emmott	
15th	Mrs. L. Prince	Mrs. B. Wild
22nd	Mrs. N. Stott	
29th	Mrs. E. Garside	Mrs. I Collins

LITTLEBOROUGH DIARY

December

Sun.	1st	10.30 am.	Mr. J. Lord
Wed.	4th	6.45 pm.	Pilots
Sun.	8th	10.30 am.	Rev. A. Nash -TOY SERVICE
		6.00 pm.	" (Holy Communion)
Wed.	11th	6.45 pm.	Pilots
Sun.	15th	10.30 am.	Mrs. M. Nash (Reception of C.W.M. Boxes)
Tues.	17th	7.00 pm.	Ladies Guild -Christmas Party
Wed.	18th	6.45 pm.	Pilots
Fri.	20th	7.30 pm.	A Film "THE NATIVITY"
Sun.	22nd	10.30 am.	Rev.A.Nash-CAROL SERVICE-(Communio
Wed.	25th	10.00 am.	CHRISTMAS DAY Rev. A.Nash -Candlelight Service
Sat.	28th	3.00 - 5.00 pm.	Party for: Creche, Primary & Juniors
Sun.	29th	10.30 am.	Mrs. M. Nash & Mr. J. Lord

January

Thurs.	2nd	7.30 pm.	Men's Fellowship - Party
Fri.	3rd		Junior Church Party

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FLOWERS FOR COMMUNION TABLE

December	1st	Mrs. E. Holt
	8th	Mrs. J.A. Leach
	15th	Mrs. Ingham
	22nd	Mrs. Binns
	29th	Mrs. Vincent
January	5th	Mrs. Hill

MINISTER:

Revd. A.V.J. Nash B.A.,
The Manse,
196 Harbour Lane,
Milnrow.
Tel: ROCHDALE 50161

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CHURCH SECRETARIES:

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54 Beechfield Road,
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Tel: ROCHDALE 42243

LITTLEBOROUGH

Mr. F.G. Simpson,
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Littleborough.
Tel: 061 834 4402
(Business)

*

MESSENGER EDITOR:

Counc. Ian Royle B.Sc. (Econ.),
24 Ladyhouse Close,
Milnrow.
Tel: ROCHDALE 41916

*

HOSPITAL VISITORS:

MILNROW: Miss M. Wood
Mrs. A. Wood
Mrs. E. Starkie
Miss A. Memory
Mrs. N. Settle

*